



DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

David E. Dise
Director

January 20, 2009

Dear Concerned Resident:

Recently you wrote to the Executive Branch and/or the County Council expressing concerns about reuse of a portion of the Gude Landfill for MCPS Bus Depot purposes. I am writing to share information with you about the Gude Landfill.

In 2006, the County Council adopted the Shady Grove Sector Plan which calls for the relocation of aging, inefficient, inadequate industrial uses adjacent to the Shady Grove Metro Station to allow for transit oriented development at that key transit site. To implement the Sector Plan there are numerous facilities that require relocation including the County Equipment Maintenance Operations, Highway Maintenance with Day Labor, MCPS Food Distribution Facility and the County Liquor Control Warehouse and offices on the west side of Crabbs Branch Parkway (County Service Park West or CSPW). On the east side of Crabbs Branch Parkway (County Service Park East or CSPE), MCPS has a large bus operation and facilities maintenance operation that requires relocation and the MNCPPC has a facilities maintenance, training and other operations that require relocation.

Executive staff has looked at numerous sites to relocate both the County Service Park West and the County Service Park East as contemplated in the Sector Plan. CSPW, which is adjacent to the metro station, is critical to achieving transit oriented development. Further, there were more parcels of land available for relocation of the smaller and less intense uses located on the County Service Park West. The uses on the County Service Park East require larger portions of land as currently configured with fewer available sites to receive these uses. For these reasons, while we have identified a portion of the Gude Landfill as a *possible* site to receive some portion of CSPE, we have been focusing primarily on the CSPW due to opportunities and the need for funding to conduct the necessary studies and planning required for the County Service Park East. Part of the reason for seeking planning money for relocation of the MCPS facilities is to enable us to better analyze how the bus and maintenance facilities can be relocated, whether at a portion of Gude, or elsewhere.

We recognize and appreciate the concerns the community has about any proposed reuse of the Gude Landfill. As we have indicated in meetings with your community leaders, relocation of MCPS bus and maintenance facilities to Gude is not a fait accompli. We recognize that there are technical, environmental and community concerns and considerations. We have also had discussions with the Maryland Department of the Environment about the effect of any relocation on the Gude Landfill.

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If any facility is to be constructed on the Gude Landfill, including some portion of the current MCPS activities at County Service Park East, we will do so only if we are certain that construction and operation could be managed without harmful environmental impact. We will also continue to be engaged with the communities' leadership, including the scope of any studies that may pertain to the Gude Landfill.


While we agree that reuse of the landfill poses challenges, the management of stormwater, leachate and methane would be done in a manner that would result in improved management and control of byproducts from the landfill.

In all probability, the ultimate solution for the MCPS facilities on the County Service Park East will be to break apart what is at best an inefficient operation into smaller elements that can be distributed to multiple sites, rather than merely relocating existing operations as they are to another location. We are working with MCPS to come up with a plan on how to do this. It may be that some reduced element of these operations could be suitable for the Gude Landfill if that would not be harmful to the community.

Your community leaders will continue to be engaged as we work to develop an understanding and approach that will provide a longterm solution for these important needs. We will continue to look at any feasible opportunities that we, or members of the community, can identify that can meet our needs and is attainable.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us. Also, as you may know, the County Council will be holding a hearing on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Council Office Building on several budget requests, including one for planning money for relocation of the MCPS bus and maintenance facilities. Executive Staff will be holding an open house from 6:30 – 7:30 in the Council Office Building Cafeteria to provide information and answer questions related to its budget requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David E. Dise', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

David E. Dise
Director

Cc: Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Tim Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer
Phil Andrews, Council President
Diane Schwartz Jones, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer